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MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS

Katrina musical ministers to thousands

By Tony Martin
Associate Editor

Combined choirs from across the Mississippi Gulf Coast and elsewhere around the state presented *How Great is Our God*, a musical celebration in remembrance of the assault of Hurricane Katrina in August 2005. The musical, performed Aug. 19 at 4 p.m. in the Mississippi Coast Coliseum in Biloxi, capped the efforts of hundreds of individuals and groups to bring this worship experience to life.

The choir consisted of approximately 675 singers from 47 churches. Coliseum officials estimated the crowd in attendance at between four and five thousand.

What elevated this musical experience above the norm was the heart and passion with which it was presented. The participants had lived the experience about which they were singing.

The event was organized by the Gulf Coast Baptist Music Association, composed of ministers of music for many area churches from many denominations. The steering committee consisted of Alan Stevens (chairman), Leon Bedsole, Becky Collins, Tammy Howard, John McCall, and Anthony Turner.

The musical was created by Steve Moore and David T.

Clydesdale. Clydesdale, an award-winning composer, arranger, and producer, has a career which stretches from the local church to NBC's *Tonight Show* Band to the London Symphony. He is widely known for his volumes of church choral music. Clydesdale was guest conductor for the event.

According to Anthony Turner, minister of music at Grace Memorial Church, Gulfport, and member of the steering committee, "We have done mass choir productions for years on the coast. We wanted to do something that would speak to the anniversary to Katrina, as well as be a testimony and an encouragement to people. After we got back together after the hurricane, we wanted



THANKSGIVING — Attendees at the Katrina Musical Remembrance at the Mississippi Coast Coliseum Aug. 19 lift their hands in unity and thanksgiving during the performance of *How Great is Our God*. (Photo by Tony Martin)

to do something to celebrate that God's faithfulness was being shown to us by the huge numbers of people who came down.

"We wanted to have at least one remembrance time that would point to Jesus. We thought about the possibilities. We wanted to do something of a scope larger than anything we'd done before. *How Great is Our God* came to us. We began to prepare, to include as many people from the coast as we could, and not just Southern Baptists."

The committee chose the musical, and someone suggested that Clydesdale be invited. He immediately wanted to be involved. While the musical was written before Katrina, the content and structure of the musical lent itself to the occasion.

According to L. Graham Smith, director of the Church Music Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, "After Clydesdale was contacted, he was delighted to be part of the event. He came for no honorarium; only his expenses were covered. He had no problem with making the musical 'Katrina-specific.'"

Turner agreed. "He had given us permission to revamp anything within the production we needed to. He loved the fact that we had personalized the narration to make it Katrina-related, to speak to what we had been through, and to use our own testimonies. The ones we chose related so well to the actual text of the songs that it made for a powerful impact."

Testimonies were presented via video, and included words from mayors of local communities; law enforcement officers; testimonies from other first responders; and other words from pastors and victims. Other first responders and volunteers in the audience were recognized. Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, shared closing remarks.

Turner noted the response of the attendees. "Some of my congregation who attended were deeply touched from having been through the aftermath and recovery of the storm. They spoke of how they were moved as we proclaimed 'how great is our God' and sang *How Great*

Thou Art. We could not have made it through all this without the help of all the people who came down to help us."

"The unity of everyone was palpable," said Smith. "Everyone who participated had been touched. Even if the storm didn't damage their homes, they all passed through this same experience and they felt that they simply needed to thank God for His watchcare."

"Out of this tragedy came the unity Christians have. The power of Christ just enveloped everyone."

"We're just grateful to Mississippi Baptists and how they were able to help us make our vision and our time of testimony come to fruition," said Turner. "We're just grateful for all who had a part during all we've faced."

Organizers wanted the event to be a time of remembrance, not only of the precious things lost in Hurricane Katrina but also of the great and mighty ways God had shown mercy.

DVDs of the event are available for purchase. For more information, visit www.katrinaremembrance.com.



LEADING IN WORSHIP — David T. Clydesdale, guest conductor and co-creator of *How Great is Our God*, leads the audience in a time of praise during the musical presented at the Mississippi Coast Coliseum Aug. 19. (Photo by Tony Martin)



EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



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Silently and unobserved

The new school year has begun across Mississippi. A quick glance at a local newspaper or television station confirms the process. What is little known and even less reported about the back-to-school season are the Christian teachers, administrators, and parents who have gone to the schools over the past several weeks to pray.

They conducted prayer walks. They held prayer meetings. They prayed for the safety of the little ones soon to be under their daily care, and for the troubled home situations from which so many of them come these days. They prayed for teachers. They prayed for the principals and assistant principals. They prayed for school staffers. They prayed for coaches and athletes.

Most of all, they prayed that a Christian witness would somehow, some way be imparted to the lost, young lives that would soon be pouring in droves through the then-silent schools. They prayed, and then left the school silently and unobserved.

Why silently and unobserved? Certainly not because they are ashamed of the Gospel. They left silently and unobserved because of the risk to educators, administrators, and staffers who could lose their jobs if they were discovered praying on campus. They left silently and unobserved so that the school system would not be sued by the hovering American Civil Liberties Union.

They just went to pray, but such is the sorry state of affairs in America today. We've almost returned to the point where Christians have to meet in catacombs and exchange secret symbols for safety.

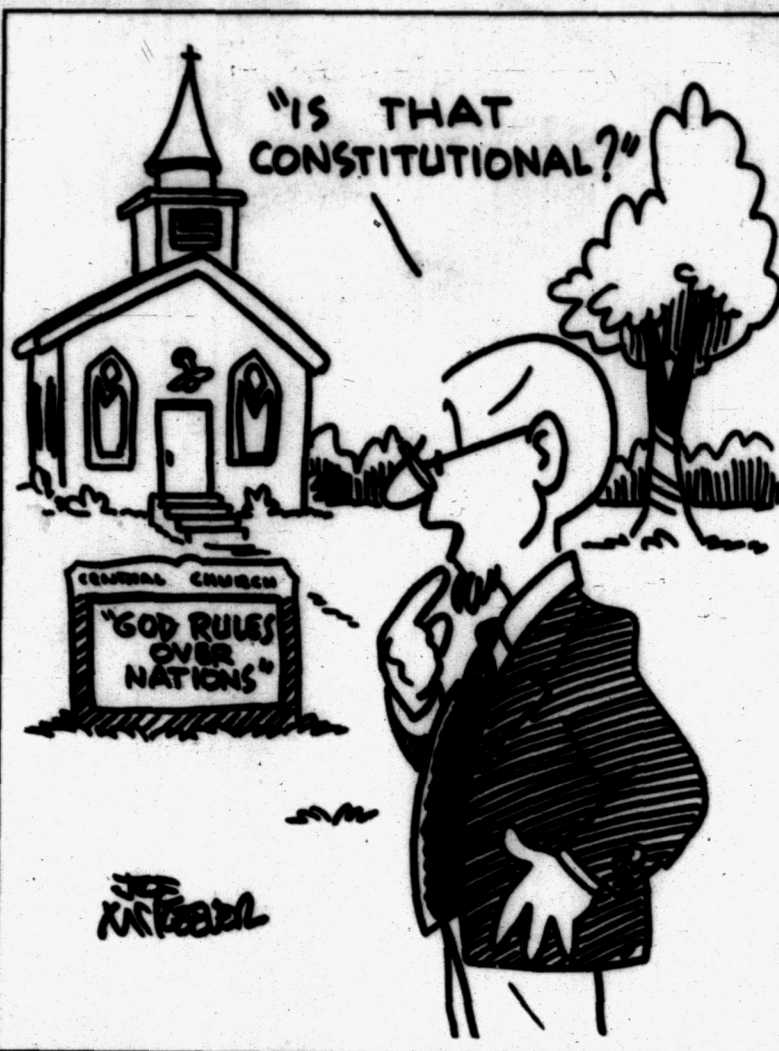
There has never been a time in history that we needed the gifted and anointed evangelist more than today. The coldness of the saints, the carelessness of sinners, and the condition of society are but a few reasons why we need revival.

Ephesians 4:11-12 says, "And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ" (KJV).

Is the day of the evangelist over? Is the relevance of mass evangelism and even revival meetings in the local church an event of the past? Does the Bible speak to these issues or is the final result up to public opinion?

Well, fortunately the answer is found in the Word of God and is not open to debate. Not only is the day of the evangelist still alive and well, there has never been a time in history that we needed the gifted and anointed evangelist more than today. Our Scripture gives us a clear word about the value of the evangelist and the revival or harvest event.

However, the real issue at hand is the use of the God-called New Testament evangelist.



We live in a country that prohibits the Name of God in schools, unless that Name is used profanely in the books on students' reading lists. We live in a country that denies students the opportunity to study the Bible but mandates they read Karl Marx and such classics as Heather Has Two Mommies. We live in a country where the Ten Commandments are outlawed in schools, but children as young as first grade must take mandatory sex education classes.

We live in a country where the federal judiciary forces schools to admit homosexuals and their "dates" to school events, but refuses to allow a prayer before those very same events. We live in a country that promotes a special form of elitism and segregation by allowing a separate high school to exist for practicing homosexuals.

In all the ways we have attempted to wring God from our public life, one of the most egregious has to be the way we have treated school-age children. It seems that we as a country (and often as individuals) have forgotten Jesus' admonition in Mark 9:42 to anyone who leads a child astray. He wasn't kidding around, and He assuredly needs no federal magistrate to interpret His words.

For a whole host of reasons, it's not going to be pretty when God rains judgment on America, and one of the big reasons that judgment is coming is the manner in which we treated the children He entrusted to us.

What can we do? Home schooling, and Christian private schools certainly have merit and provide fertile ground for educational debates, but what about the untold numbers of lost children whose only contact with a follower

of Jesus is through interaction in their public schools? Many Christian students, parents, and teachers have chosen public schools to let their lights shine for mankind to see (Matt. 5:14-16). They are intent on spreading the Gospel in a corner of our society that can be particularly pagan.

For the sake of the children, let us pray they succeed.

Updated from an Editor's Notebook originally published on August 14, 2003.

GUEST OPINION:



Evangelists needed, now more than ever

By Bill Britt
Gallatin, Tn.

list. What can we glean from the Word of God? First of all, when an evangelist is used it gives the church an opportunity to adhere to the Word of God.

In Ephesians 4:11, the Bible speaks of the pastor and the evangelist as both being a legitimate New Testament offices. The word used in Ephesians 4:11 is best translated a messenger of good tidings. The word denotes a preacher of the Gospel who is not located in one place but travels sharing the Good News.

A local church would not think of neglecting the office of the pastor but yet countless churches have abandoned the use of the evangelist. It is clear that not only should churches use the God-called evangelist

but should support an evangelist with prayers and finances.

Another reason that the evangelist should be used is that it advances the Gospel. Statistically, it is clear that conversions and baptisms are closely attached to the local church that uses evangelists and holds evangelistic and harvest events.

Evangelists not only see people saved but they also are used to stir up the body of Christ to be a bold witness. The evangelist, for the most part, has a single focus of preaching the simple Gospel message and has an anointing to stir up the body of Christ to advance the Gospel.

There is yet a third reason that the evangelist is needed, drawing from Ephesians 4:11-12: The evangelist assists in

addressing moral issues of the community. The word "perfecting" is translated "equip" or "to make right." It gives us the picture of a doctor setting a bone or a fisherman mending his nets. When the Gospel is preached and the effects are seen, there is no doubt that the power of the Gospel corrects, mends, sets in order what was broken in the arena of morality.

A fourth reason the evangelist should not be neglected is that the use of revivals and the evangelist awakens the church. Paul further says in Ephesians 4:12 that the evangelist encourages the church to do the work of the ministry that assists in edifying the body of Christ. The word "ministry" presents the idea of an "occupation" or "to be employed." It is where we get our word "servant."

There has never been a time that the church needed revival and needed to be awakened any more than today. God has given a unique call to the evangelist to do just that.

Britt is immediate past president of the Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists. He may be reached at bill@compeloutreach.org. His commentary appears courtesy of Baptist Press.

Muslims await return of Christ-like figure

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Among the nearly 68 million people in Iran, the vast majority are Muslim who place their hope not in modern-day politics or rulers but in a person who walked the earth centuries ago and is promised to return.

"Both Islam and Christianity have a very well-defined eschatology, or period of the last days; both of them cannot be correct ...," said William Wagner, senior professor at Golden Gate Seminary in Mill Valley, Ca., and author of the book, *How Islam Plans to Change the World*.

A majority of Shiite Muslims traditionally believe that the "12th Imam" (Islamic religious leader), born in 868 A.D., was placed by God into hiding (known as occultation) until the day of judgment. Southern Baptist author and evangelist Anis Shorrosh explained that many Shiites also refer to the 12th Imam as the Mahdi, an Arabic word that generally references a messiah, or a guide.

"This man will come to show them the way, because the prayer of every Muslim five times a day ... ends with 'Show us the right path, not the path of those who have incurred your anger or those who are lost, but those upon whom grace has come,'" Shorrosh said.

Though most strains of Islam have a belief in the Mahdi, Shiites traditionally believe he is Mohammed ibn Hasan, the 12th in the line of imams who were descendents of the prophet Mohammed.

Though they do not know when the Mahdi will return, they believe he will come to end the misery of his people. Some strains of Islam even hold a belief that Jesus will be the Mahdi who will return and proclaim Islam as the true religion.

"Satan always tries to duplicate everything that God does," Wagner said, "and I believe he has created his own eschatology that is somewhat similar to



BACK HOME — A Muslim young boy recovers a Koran and a stuffed animal from the ruins of a house destroyed in the Israeli bombardment of Kfar Sir, a village in southern Lebanon, during hostilities with Hezbollah Shiite guerrillas. (BP photo by Mahmoud Zayat/AFP/Getty Images)

that of Christianity, but false enough to where it is apparent that it is not the truth."

Ray Tallman, director of the school of intercultural studies at Golden Gate Seminary, noted that the major eschatological question for Shiite Muslims is when the Mahdi's return will take place — and many hold the belief that the time is near. The increasing clash with Israel and that with Christianity are two indications to Shiites that the Mahdi's return could be near, said Tallman, who spent seven years as the international director for Arab World Ministries.

"All of that is sort of a sign of the times that now it has come to this, and that what is actually being done now out of hate has an eschatological sign of promise to it," Tallman said of the Shiite view.

Iranian president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad has been cited by various news sources as not only believing in the eventual return of the Mahdi, but that

the return is near and that it is the responsibility of the Iranian government to prepare the country for his return.

"Belief in a savior is universal," BBC News quoted Ahmadinejad as saying in January. "It is the pivot of our beliefs as Muslims and Iranians. We believe that an offspring of the prophet, may peace be upon him, will be the ultimate savior. His name and attributes are clear. He will come and will administer ultimate justice."

The belief that the Mahdi's return is near is not a new claim among Shiites, Wagner said, but one that has been held almost since the 12th Imam was historically placed into hiding.

"Almost every generation has some figures in Islam that either claim to be the 12th Imam or claim that the 12th Imam will come to himself," Wagner said.

Although Shiites and Sunnis often battle against each other, as is currently the case in Iraq, Wagner noted common efforts among both groups of Muslims to destroy Israel, which is a critical part of Islam taking

control in the world and thus ushering in the Mahdi.

"They feel like one of the major blocking points is Israel, and that is one reason why they feel like they must destroy Israel," Wagner said.

Wagner further noted that Islam is "on the march" with the intention of the entire world becoming Muslims.

"The problem is that in many parts of the world today, Christianity has become very weak," Wagner said. "It is extremely necessary for all Christians to reevaluate their faith and to become stronger in their faith in Jesus Christ. This is the one thing that Islam fears the most because, down deep, they know that they cannot compete with the truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ."

Wagner also noted that Islam is a religion of fear, with many Muslims fearing their own faith.

"It is the task of Christians to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ to Muslims everywhere so that they can be released from this fear and find the assurance of eternal salvation through Jesus Christ," Wagner said.

Abortion arguments set

WASHINGTON (BP) — The U.S. Supreme Court will hear oral arguments Nov. 8 on the constitutionality of a federal ban on the grisly procedure known as partial-birth abortion. The 2003 law bars a procedure typically used in the fifth or sixth month of pregnancy. In the method, an intact baby is delivered normally feet first until only the head is left in the birth canal. The doctor pierces the base of the infant's skull with surgical scissors before inserting a catheter into the opening and suctioning out the brain, killing the baby. The technique provides for easier removal of the baby's head. One nurse who witnessed the procedure testified in court several years ago she saw the baby's hands "clasp and unclasp" and its feet "kick" before it was killed. Three different appeals courts at the federal level have ruled the prohibition is unconstitutional. The Eighth Circuit invalidated the law based on its lack of an exception for the health of the mother, while the Ninth Circuit said the ban imposes an undue burden on women and is too vague. The Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission signed on to a friend-of-the-court brief filed in May in the Eighth Circuit case in support of the law. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops submitted the brief. The SBC approved resolutions condemning the partial-birth procedure in both 1996 and 2002.

Looking back

10 years ago

As a continuing step in preparing for its 21st century ministry, the Baptist Sunday School Board (BSSB) names a 19-member employee committee and contracts with an outside consultant to study the name of the board, according to BSSB President Jimmy Draper.

20 years ago

For the third consecutive year, a William Carey University student is chosen to study abroad under the prestigious Rotary International Fellowship program. Gary Robertson will study chemical engineering at the University of York in Yorkshire, England.

60 years ago

The Executive Committee of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board votes emergency increases in the budget of state programs aiding Negro Bible Institutes and Parchman prison evangelism, due to explosive growth in those ministries.



MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS

THE SECOND
FRONT PAGE

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YOU CAN RESPOND RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

DEALING WITH FEAR

Fear is an ever-present reality in our world. Regardless whether it is dealing with disasters, disease, terrorists, termination, or troubles in the family, all of us can be touched with twinges of fear. All fear is not bad. There can be healthy and wholesome fears that help us avoid some of life's pain and suffering. The fear of God's awesome display in the sky called lightning can develop a respect that causes a person to seek shelter and protection until the storm passes. On the other hand fear can be a thief robbing you of joy, stealing emotional strength, and causing you to cringe and run from the shadows in life. Fears can grow into great monsters that control every thought, shape, and action, and prevent you from doing many of the things that you would like to attempt but cannot because fear stands as a great blockade.

God is certainly aware that we have fears and has filled His book, the Word of God, with repeated calls to fear not. Although I have not personally counted the number of "fear thou not" in the Bible, I have read on a number of occasions that there are supposed to be 365. That means that there is one "fear not" from God for every day of the year. One writer said that there are 366 "fear thou not" in the Bible, which means that God has not only covered the entire year but has included one for leap year. For sure there are hundreds of times that God speaks to an individual or to all of His people and says, "Fear not."

Recently fear struck the home of my son and his family. It all began as Rob arrived home one afternoon. Pulling into the driveway he started to get out of his truck and spotted a huge snake slithering on to the driveway. I can assure you that he has inherited a healthy respect and profound fear of snakes from both his parents.



Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

Seeing the snake, this hunter and lover of the outdoors took decisive and smart action. He got back in his truck, picked up his cell phone, and called his neighbor across the street to come and kill the snake.

The first reports that I received seemed to indicate that this was somewhere around a 25-foot South American Anaconda. Later reports downsized the snake considerably though it was still real and, in fact, it was poisonous. Adequately armed, the good neighbor came over and killed the snake. This was no insignificant thing, because kids run and play all around the house and up and down the neighborhood street and someone could have been seriously injured. Once assured that the snake had given up the ghost, all the neighborhood kids began to gather and inspect it. Rob then emerged from his truck.

In the crowd of kids and neighbors that gathered were Rob's three nature-loving kids who were fascinated by this hair-raising experience. Along with the others who were there, they began a serious investigation and examination of the terrorizing snake. Once the trauma began to subside a decision was made to keep the snake because there were so many friends and other family members who had not had the opportunity to observe the creature. In order to preserve the snake they put it in a plastic box and put it in a refrigerator they had in the carport. Life returned to normal except for occasional interludes when someone came calling who had

not had the privilege of seeing the snake. A few days later the mother, Kimandria, had to go and get something out of the refrigerator in the carport. Forgetting about the snake she opened the door and was looking for the item she needed. Suddenly she saw the snake. Not only did she see the snake, but she also thought it moved. She jumped back with renewed terror in her heart, watched it from a distance, and finally convinced herself that the snake was dead, that her eyes and emotions had played tricks on her, and that there was actually nothing to fear from the dead, cold snake. Her heart calmed down, she gained control of her emotions, and went on about her work.

Later in the day she was doing some of the family wash and went to take a load out of the washing machine and put it into the dryer. Opening the lid and starting to remove the clothes something in the washer moved. Had the snake gone from the refrigerator to the washing machine? This time she was convinced that something was there, something did move. What was it? She checked more closely and found another creature. Apparently, one of the boys had found a frog, put it in his pocket, and it had been through the wash. Fear had struck again. Again, she overcame her fear, got the frog, and removed it from the washer. Bless his little heart the frog had gone through the entire wash cycle, the spin cycle, and emerged dazed but alive and found himself to be perceived as a monster. Again,

fear was brought under control; the frog was captured and returned to his natural habitat. Life moved on to its next phase.

For me, detached from all of this shock and awe, it seemed that there were several lessons to be learned by all of us.

Lesson one is that there are things in life that do and ought to create fear. In the normal course of life everyone of us faces snakes, poisonous and harmful things that are not good for either our children or us. They need to get our attention.

The second lesson is that fear is infectious and contagious. Fear spreads not only from person to person but it spreads from event to event. I personally believe that one of the reasons God told Gideon to reduce his army was to alleviate the fear factor. The first thing God told Gideon to do was to tell the people who were fearful to go back home. A few spreaders of fear can stymie an army of courageous people.

The third monumental lesson is that we can overcome our fears. We can deal with them ourselves by looking at the reality of the situation, having friends to help us through the experience, and ultimately, gloriously, trusting God. The Psalmist said, "What time I am afraid, I will trust in thee" (Ps. 56:3). No doubt today each of us will face something, somebody, some series of events or consequences that stir our deepest emotions and raises our fears. In the midst of the swirling questions and chaos, we can find the point of reference that makes all the difference in life as our compass of faith points us to the Lord. He tells us, "I will never leave you or forsake you" (Heb. 13:5). In the calmness of His love and in the confidence of His strength, life moves on. May God help you today to deal with your fears.

The author may be contacted at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. E-mail: jfutral@mbcb.org.

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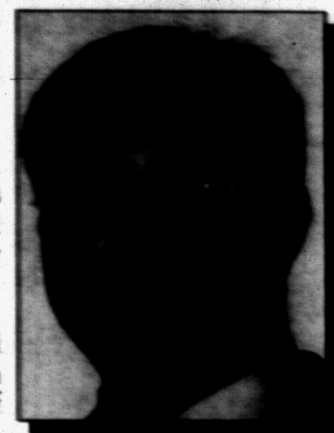
STAFF CHANGES

First Church, Marion, has called Justin Knight as pastor. Knight, his wife Rachel, and son Duncan come from McCool Church, Attala County.

County Line Church, Crystal Springs, has called John Staszefski as pastor. He is a graduate of New Orleans Seminary and Anderson Seminary. He previously served at Calvary Church, Bruce.

First Church, Grenada, has called Kevin L. Jackson as pastor. He is a graduate of the University of Mississippi and is attending Mid-America Seminary, Memphis. He most recently served as pastor of Mt. Liberty Church, Water Valley. He and his wife Mary Ann have one daughter, Perrin.

Pine Grove Church, Picayune, has called Timothy Mims as pastor. He recently served West Marks Church, Marks. He holds the B.A. degree from Blue Mountain College and is currently attending New Orleans Seminary. He and his wife Amanda have one son, Zachary.



Knight

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light, and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

August 24, 2006

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.

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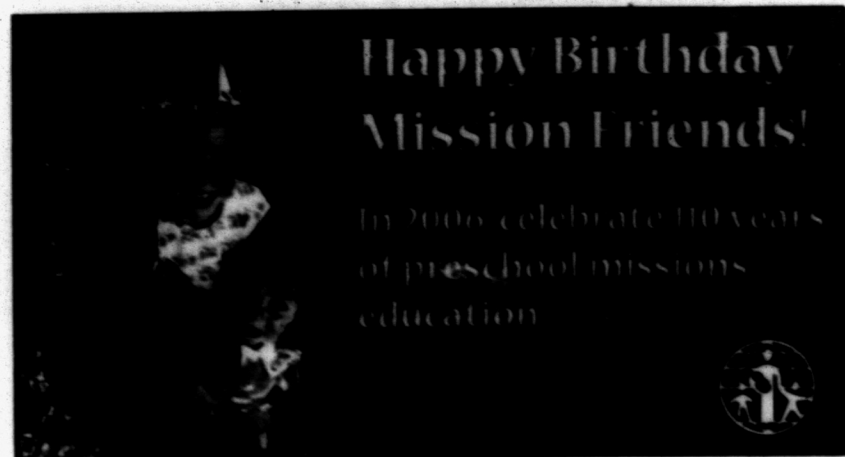
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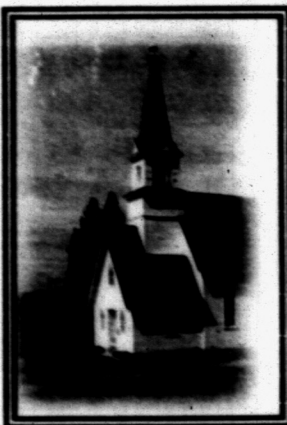
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- **September 19, 2006**
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6 – 8:30 p.m.

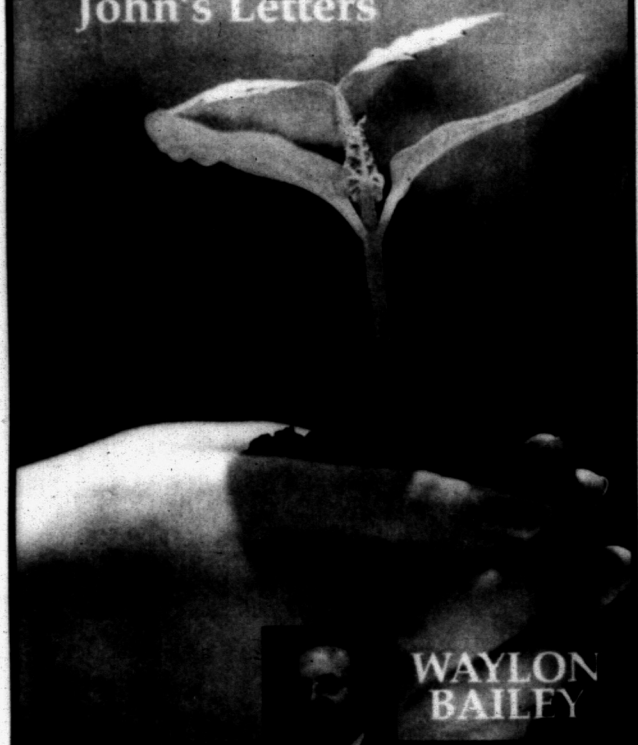
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"How to Grow in Loving God"

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EVENT INFORMATION

MONDAY 9/18/06

BLUE MOUNTAIN COLLEGE
BLUE MOUNTAIN

TUESDAY 9/19/06

MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE
CLINTON

THURSDAY 9/21/06

WILLIAM CAREY COLLEGE
HATTIESBURG

REGISTRATION BEGINS AT
8:30 A.M.
CONFERENCE AT
9:00 A.M. - NOON
NO LUNCH WILL BE SERVED.

For more information contact Sunday School
1-800-748-1651 OR 601-292-3292

Speakers Tournament

Bible Drill

Bible Buddies Blue Cycle

Leaders Clinics

6:30 - 8 p.m.

September 11
FBC, Meridian

September 12
FBC, Senatobia

September 18
Parkway BC, Clinton

September 19
FBC, Lyman

For more info, contact Discipleship and Family
Ministry at dhicks@mbcb.org, or call
1-800-748-1651, ext. 287 or 601-292-3287.



CHILDREN'S TEACHERS led by
Billy Hollingsworth, Children's minister
Park Place BC, Pearl

EMPHASIS on Basics of Children's Bible Drill

Introduce Bible Skills, Drills,
and Thrills Curriculum

- Bible Buddies (grades 1-3)
- Discipleship Curriculum for
all children (grades 1-6)
- Support for Children's Bible Drill (grades 4-6)



YOUTH TEACHERS led by
Don Hicks, Bible Drill consultant
Discipleship & Family Ministry

EMPHASIS on Speakers Tournament &
Youth Bible Drill

Basics of Youth Bible Drill (grades 7-12)

Introduction of SpeakerPower, a new resource to
support Speakers Tournament, and an overview of
new Speakers Tournament rules

Scholarship information for Bible Drill and Speakers
Tournament

MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST

MINISTERS' WIVES CONFERENCE

FBC, JACKSON
OCTOBER 30, 2006

THE GARBAGE TRUCK COMES ON ...



TUES. 5 PM

... OR ...

NEUTRALIZING NEGATIVES

with

Janie Walters
Madison, Miss.



More Info: Contact Kay McDonnell
1-800-748-1651, Ext. 305, or 601-292-3305
or E-mail: kmcdonnell@mbcb.org



THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST FOUNDATION

Mississippi Baptist Foundation, P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205 or call 800-748-1652 or 601-292-3210.

Summer 2006

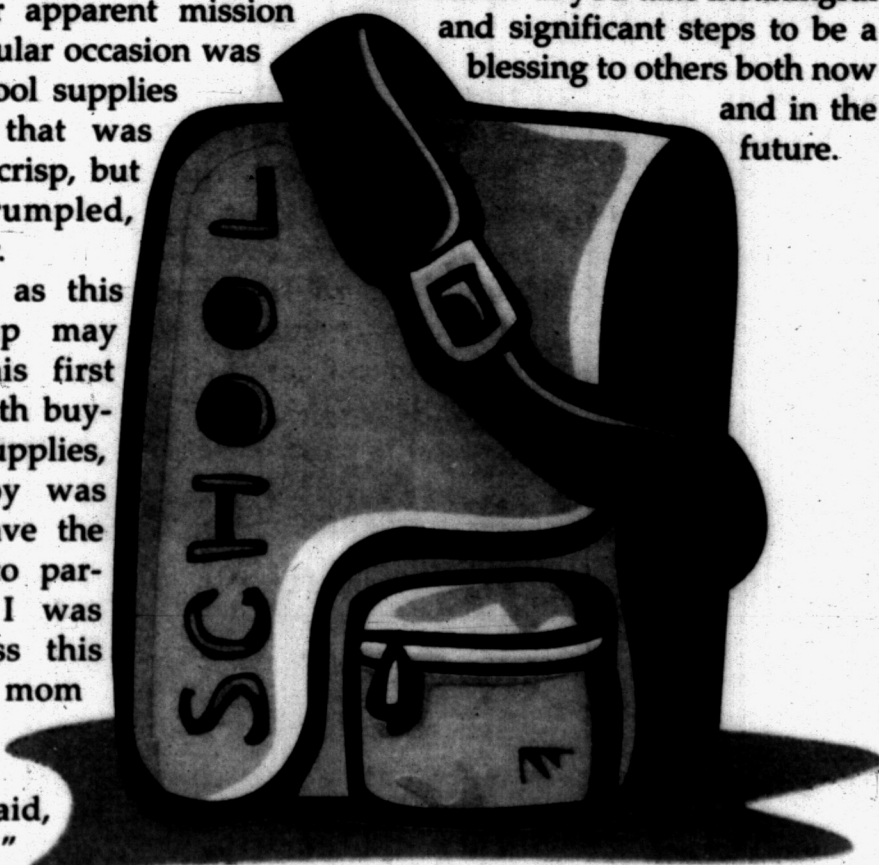
Back to School A Basket of Blessings

Daniel C. Hall
Executive Director
Mississippi Baptist Foundation

I would guess that most folks have been to Wal-Mart and have noticed the immediacy with which merchandise confronts customers as soon as they hear "Welcome to Wal-Mart" and pass through the security gate. The assortment of products displayed on these early shelves is varied and changes constantly. On a recent visit, the fact that these shelves contained notebook paper and other school-related items reminded me how quickly summer vacation ends and a new school year begins.

Upon entering the store, I observed two women with a young boy (probably about 6 years old and entering the first grade) and an even younger girl. I realized that these women were related to these children as mother and grandmother. Their apparent mission on that particular occasion was to secure school supplies from a list that was printed on a crisp, but soon-to-be-crumpled, piece of paper.

Inasmuch as this shopping trip may have been his first experience with buying school supplies, this little boy was thrilled to have the opportunity to participate. As I was about to pass this family, the mom motioned toward a shelf and said, "There it is."



The boy whirled around, sighted the specific school supply that was needed, smiled from ear to ear, and dashed right in front of me to scoop a jumbo roll of single-ply paper towels off the shelf. Then, clutching that prize in his tiny, 6-year-old hands, he darted back to his mom and placed the roll of towels in the basket that would soon be filled with many meaningful "blessings."

As I watched the entire sequence unfold, I could hardly conceal my amusement. In reflecting upon this event, however, I realized a much deeper truth. By securing these paper towels and the other items outlined on his school supply list, this young boy was taking meaningful and significant steps in preparing for the future.

The Mississippi Baptist Foundation serves as a money-management partner for Mississippi Baptist churches, institutions, and agencies. In this way, the Foundation is a "laborer together with God" with all Mississippi Baptists. This newsletter not only offers several examples of opportunities that promote Kingdom goals, but this material also highlights the manner in which the Foundation can offer assistance as you take meaningful and significant steps to be a blessing to others both now and in the future.

Jaunita Chandler Memorial Trust Continues to Bless Home Church

Many Christians are concerned with the support they give to the Lord's work during their lifetime. While one must be conscientious of their tithe, one can also support the Lord's work through a Last Will and Testament. This support results in strengthening Kingdom work beyond one's earthly service. Through planning and preparation, one has the opportunity to preserve, protect, and distribute their estate in a manner pleasing to God.

In 1994, Ms. Jaunita Chandler of Greenwood, Mississippi, contacted the Mississippi Baptist Foundation regarding assistance in drafting her Last Will and Testament. She wanted to make sure that the assets she had accumulated over her lifetime were used for the Lord's work through her church. Other aspects of her estate planning included a Durable Power of Attorney, and a Health Care Power of Attorney. Even though she later revised her will, her desire and commitment to be faithful to her local church remained constant.

When the Lord called Ms. Chandler into "higher service" on May 5, 2005, the Mississippi Baptist Foundation fulfilled her request to serve as the Executor of her estate. Proceeds from her Estate established the "Jaunita Chandler Memorial Trust Fund" with the earnings being directed to her home church, First Baptist Church of Greenwood. In addition, Ms. Chandler's will left instructions for her clothing to be given to the North Delta Baptist Association located in Clarksdale for distribution through the Associational Missions Office. Family members and friends who received specific

bequests from the estate have committed much of the furnishings in Ms. Chandler's home to families who have lost homes or have otherwise been displaced through Hurricane Katrina.

Jaunita Chandler was such a vibrant and delightful person. During her lifetime she worked hard, saved, and made smart financial decisions. Her zest for life, her keen mind and memory, and her love for the Lord were evident. Her legacy will continue touching lives through her generous and gracious spirit. Jaunita's gift was much more than money. Her gift was a reaffirmation of her Godly spirit and vision for the future to fulfill the Great Commission and reach the lost.

The preparation of your will is recognized as one of the most important documents produced during your lifetime. What will happen to the assets God has entrusted to you when you die? May Jaunita's example encourage you to include provisions for serving the Lord through your Last Will and Testament. Your stewardship will help empower missionaries, educate young people at one of our Baptist Colleges or Southern Baptist Seminaries, facilitate Disaster Relief work, strengthen the ministry of the Baptist Children's Village, support your local church, and sustain Kingdom ministries in Mississippi and around the world.

The Mississippi Baptist Foundation is available to assist you as you address your estate planning needs and your stewardship goals. Please contact the Foundation at P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205 or call 1-800-748-1652 or 601-292-3210.



Jaunita Chandler

The Memorial to the Missing: Blessings Given ... Blessings Received

By now, most Baptists across our state have had the opportunity to hear about a unique memorial that has been erected at the Baptist Building as a visual reminder that approximately 50 million babies have been aborted in our country since 1973. While Americans quickly recognize the death and destruction that accompanied the more recent date of September 11, 2001, our citizenry has yet to digest the impact of the 1973 Roe v. Wade decision by the U. S. Supreme Court through which abortion became legal in this country.

Recently, supporters of two opposing views on abortion gathered in Jackson to rally around their particular stance. Many of these folks came from states outside of Mississippi to make their presence and message known. Local news coverage and personal observation revealed that both sides, to some extent, were loud, boisterous, antagonistic, unloving, and unforgiving. In contrast to these rally participants, however, the Memorial to the Missing proclaims a powerful message in a quiet, reverent fashion that does not browbeat anyone or clamor for attention from the politicians.

The goal of the Memorial is to gather 50 million pennies to represent the tragic loss of innocent lives. Once collected, the value of these pennies (\$500,000) will be invested through a perpetual trust fund with the Mississippi Baptist Foundation. The earnings derived from this trust will be utilized by the Christian Action Commission of the Mississippi Baptist Convention in the promotion of Sanctity of Life/Pro-Life issues across Mississippi and beyond.

Currently, about 25 million pennies have been contributed to this

memorial fund as thousands of individuals and hundreds of churches have participated in this effort. A huge "Thank You" is due to everyone who has emptied pockets and poured out piggy banks for this cause. In the midst of these words of appreciation,

however, a quick word of encouragement to stay the course also is offered. Admittedly, the challenge to collect 50 million pennies can be somewhat mind-boggling. Nevertheless, Mississippi Baptists are known for accepting special challenges and unique opportunities to promote the cause of Christ.

In 1 Peter 3:8-9, Peter offers summary instructions for Christian living. Presented as imperatives, Christians are admonished in verse 8 to be "harmonious," "sympathetic," "brotherly," "compassionate," and "humble." Furthermore, Christians are instructed to refrain from retaliation and revenge in the face of hostility, but to offer a blessing through prayer and intercession instead (v. 9).

In a unique way, the Memorial to the Missing illustrates the instructions that are highlighted by these two verses.

Even as each penny represents a missing child, each penny also focuses on the opportunity to offer an intercessory blessing for abortion supporters with compassion and humility. The encouragement to align one's conduct and character with the example of Jesus Christ is "that you may inherit a blessing" (v. 9). Thus, your participation with this memorial becomes "blessings given ... blessings received."

"I'M A LITTLE PENNY"

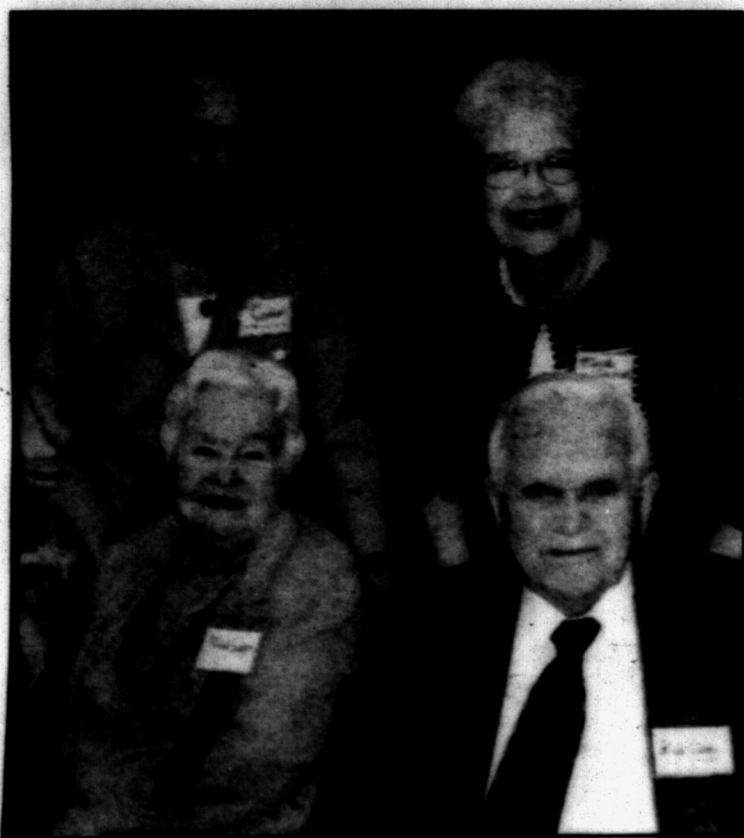
I'm a little penny, flat and round,
Lying here unnoticed upon the cold, wet ground.
A tribute to Abe Lincoln adorns my front and back.
Abolishing injustices certainly was his knack.

Our nation's in a crisis much greater than civil war.
50 million lives are lost, maybe even more.
Rather than get discouraged and sit around and pout,
Christians must work together to get the message out.

A memorial has been constructed to honor the missing souls.
Pennies have been contributed by the buckets, bags, and piles.
Though the math is pretty simple, our stance is mighty strong.
Abortion violates holy law which makes it clearly wrong.

I'm new and shiny like the day I left the mint.
But my purpose does not matter as I guard the innocent.
So I'm giving pennies until the glass walls burst.
And I'll be a blessing for us all as in Him we place our trust.

Rene Sugg/Pat Alford Literacy Missions Trust Established



Pi-o-neer [pi-ə-'ni(ə)r]: 1) one who opens or prepares for others to follow; 2) one who originates or takes part in the development of;

While we are prone to think of pioneers in terms of those rugged, daring folks who blazed western-bound trails across America's unexplored and unsettled wilderness territory, the term "pioneer" has a much broader application. In fact, Rene Sugg is recognized as a modern-day pioneer as she helped prepare the way for others to follow in the area of literacy missions. Along with other committed pioneers such as Marjorie Walker and Martha Stockstill, Rene and her husband championed the cause

First Church, Jackson, literacy pioneers, Rene and Judge Robert Sugg (seated left to right) and First Church, Jackson, current leaders, Pat Marshall, and Martha Stockstill (standing left to right) at the WMU Annual Missions Celebration at Broadmoor Church, Madison, April 29, 2006, where the Rene Sugg and Pat Alford Literacy Missions Endowment was announced.

of literacy missions from the earliest days of this special mission emphasis.

Rene received her training in literacy missions in the 1960s and 1970s when the opportunity first became available as a ministry of the Home Mission Board (now NAMB). Rene's passion for promoting literacy and her unwavering commitment to this effort enabled her to begin the Literacy Missions Ministry in Mississippi. With her team of fellow pioneers, Rene and company taught workshops and trained numerous other literacy missions leaders. Through their ongoing commitment to the Great Commandments and the Great Commission, numerous people have learned to read. Yet, more importantly, these previously illiterate individuals have learned to read God's Word.

Promoting literacy with the slogan "Teach Them the Meaning of the Word," the Literacy (continued, top of page 3)

(Literacy cont.)

Missions Ministry offers training in Adult Reading and Writing, Tutoring Children and Youth, Chronological Bible Storying, English as a Second Language (ESL), and English as a Foreign Language for participants of short-term mission trips. Additionally, training is available for Hispanic leaders in "Alphalit" which is the Spanish version of Adult Reading and Writing.

In memory of his late wife Pat and in honor of these literacy missions pioneers, Richard Alford helped establish the "Rene Sugg and Pat Alford Literacy Missions Trust" with the Mississippi Baptist Foundation. The Alfords

have had a tremendous influence on mission endeavors with Richard serving as Church and Community Missions Director for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board for 10 years. Since 1991, Richard has utilized his energies and expertise as Director for Language Missions and Church / Community Missions for the Alabama Baptist Convention.

The earnings that are generated from this financial investment will help ensure that the



Richard Alford

dreams and efforts of a few pioneers will expand in influence and in scope as new pioneers follow the example of Rene Sugg by investing their time, energy, and resources to "Teach Them the Meaning of the Word!"

Additional information about the Literacy Missions Ministry in Mississippi is available by contacting Paula Smith (Literacy Missions Coordinator) at psmith@mbcb.org or 601/292-3336. You may register your financial support of literacy missions through your contribution to the "Rene Sugg and Pat Alford Literacy Missions Trust." Information about this endowment is available by contacting the Mississippi Baptist Foundation at 601/292-3210.

Are You Searching For ...

Financial Security?

Economic Freedom?

Charitable Giving Opportunities?

If you are like most individuals, you long for the safe harbor of financial security, economic freedom and charitable giving opportunities. Through a comprehensive set of skillfully drafted estate planning documents, you can light a lamp that will dispel the darkness of an uncertain future by directing the distribution and/or the management of your hard-earned estate assets, produce a perpetual flow of financial support for your family and loved ones as well as create a lasting legacy for yourself or someone else. Other important goals that can be accomplished with a carefully crafted estate plan are:

- Control all your property including its management, accumulation, and distribution.
- Allow you to leave explicit instructions for the care of your loved ones including protective trusts for your surviving spouse, parents, young children, disadvantaged children, adult children, or grandchildren.
- Keep your affairs private and confidential.
- Provide federal estate tax planning.
- Perpetuate your lifetime giving patterns by supporting your designated charitable organizations in perpetuity.

Since 1943, the Mississippi Baptist Foundation has been a keeper of the light by assisting individuals in the highly specialized area of charitable estate planning. If you want to light a lamp and continue to brighten the lives of your loved ones and the ministries that you value, give the Foundation a call.

Informative brochures about

- Gift Annuities
- Investing for your church
 - Planned Giving
 - Wills that Work
- Charitable Trusts
- Security Gifts

are available upon your request.



THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST FOUNDATION

(601) 292-3210 • (800) 748-1651
FAX (601) 968-0904 • www.mbc.org

Milton and Donna Wheeler: A Legacy of Love

Over five decades ago a young Earl Milton Wheeler embarked on a special love relationship with William Carey College. A few years later, a love relationship of a different sort developed when Donna Duck accepted Milton's marriage proposal in 1965. For over 40 years, this couple has devoted themselves to God, to each other, and to untiring service to their alma mater, William Carey College.

Dr. Wheeler has been a professor of history for 42 years while Donna has provided capable leadership for 41 years in a variety of areas. Her most recent position has been as the Director of Alumni Relations. These lengthy tenures on the college's faculty and administrative staff demonstrate the Wheelers' appreciation and love for the college. As he affirmed the blessings afforded him by WCC, Dr. Wheeler declared "William Carey gave my wife and me an excellent education as undergraduates. Indeed I felt from the beginning that this was the Lord's college."

Dr. and Mrs. Wheeler expressed their continuing commitment to the university in a unique and tangible way through the recent pledge of their entire estate to William Carey as presented in their Last Will and Testament. Involvement by the

Mississippi Baptist Foundation began when the Foundation was contacted for assistance with a major gift that was anticipated for the university. In response to this request, Foundation representatives visited with WCC president, Dr. Larry Kennedy, and the prospective donors, Dr. Milton and Donna Wheeler, to discuss the Wheelers' estate plan. This meeting took place on Friday, August 26, 2005 on the Hattiesburg campus as a storm named "Katrina" was threatening the coasts of Mississippi and Louisiana.

In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, Dr. Wheeler was asked if plans were still in place to proceed with the gift to the school or should the process be postponed until he and his family could recover from the consequences of the storm. Dr. Wheeler responded with an overwhelming affirmation of his trust in God and his continued desire to serve the Lord through the stewardship of the financial provisions entrusted to him while on this earth.

As part of their estate plan, the Wheelers established a trust with the Mississippi Baptist Foundation that will provide financial blessings for increased library resource material, scholarships, campus improvements, and Crusader athletics. The trust fund was created with the hope of making a difference in the lives of students in the present and in the future. Dr. Wheeler expressed this goal by declaring, "I hope these funds will continue the tradition of excellence at Carey...and, hopefully, our financial under-girding will continue this heritage." Donna Wheeler echoed the sentiment of her husband by stating, "I believe in Christian education and in the mission of this school, and I believe that this college belongs to God."

In honor of this magnani-

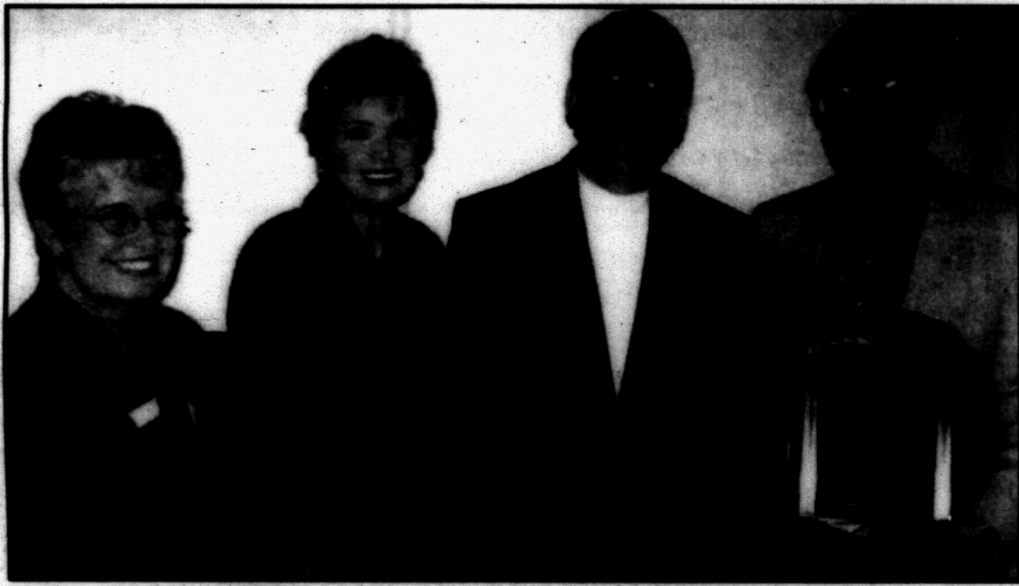
mous gesture of generosity by Dr. and Mrs. Wheeler, the WCC Board of Trustees approved Dr. Kennedy's recommendation that the new baseball field be named "Milton Wheeler Park" and the alumni house the "Donna Duck Wheeler Alumni House." As he expressed appreciation for



The Wheelers prepare to cheer the WCC baseball team to victory at the "Milton Wheeler Park," named in his honor.

this action by the trustees, Dr. Kennedy added, "Not only is this a significant gift to the college, but also it will encourage others to remember the college in their estate planning. It's a wonderful gift on their part."

Despite the special recognitions that have been forthcoming since the announcement of their financial pledge to William Carey, the Wheelers' humble commitment to the Lord through ministry to the university is expressed in prayer as the Wheelers refer to William Carey as "your college, Lord." The historical, present, and future commitment of this couple to the Lord through the advancement of Christian higher education will provide immeasurable blessings to countless numbers of students both now and in the years to come. Truly, the Wheelers have established a legacy of love!



(left to right) Donna Wheeler, Sarah Kennedy, President Dr. Larry Kennedy, and Dr. Milton Wheeler are pictured here following the Homecoming 2006 Awards Brunch where the Wheelers were honored with Service Awards for their years of service to William Carey University.



THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST FOUNDATION

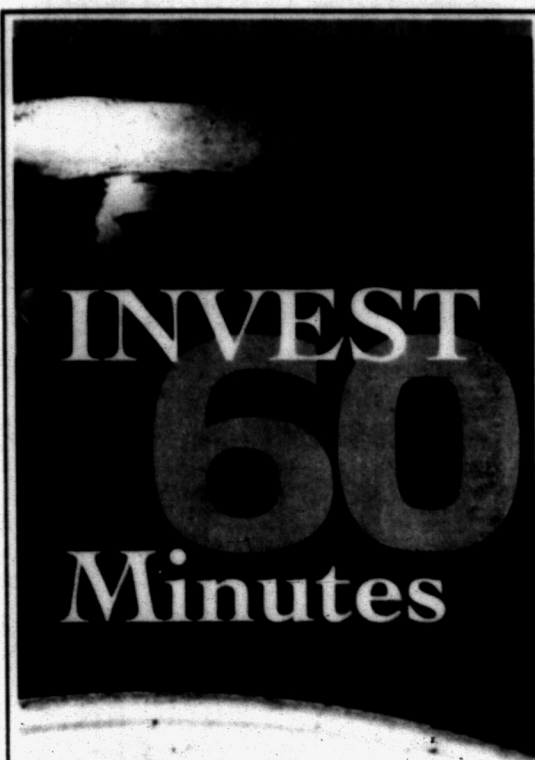
Mississippi Baptist Foundation, P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205 or call 800-748-1652 or 601-292-3210.

Back to School – A Basket of Blessings

Against the backdrop of my observation of a 6-year-old, I began to wonder how many folks who are 26, 46, 66, or 86 years of age have taken meaningful and significant steps to prepare for the future. In particular, what opportunities have been identified whereby you can make both an immediate and eternal impact in the lives of others? Additionally, what steps have you taken to take advantage of such opportunities? Would you consider offering a blessing to others by pro-

viding for the Lord's work through your Last Will and Testament, a memorial trust, or a charitable life-income trust? Although the smile of excitement on the face of that little boy was priceless, I am convinced that your provision of perpetual resources for missions and ministry through the Mississippi Baptist Foundation will add more to the basket of blessings for you and others than a roll of single-ply paper towels ever could offer.





... and learn how
to increase giving
in your church!



HOST
Jerry Mixon
Stewardship Department
MBCB



SPECIAL GUEST
David Waganer
National Stewardship
Development Association

THOSE ATTENDING WILL RECEIVE
A free lunch or dinner & George Barna's book
How to Increase Giving in Your Church

SEMINAR DISCUSSION

- Budget Toolbox
- Be an Encourager
- Catch the Vision

Monday, September 25
11 a.m.
Western Sizzlin, Batesville

Monday, September 25
6 p.m.
Lake Tiak O'Khata, Louisville

Tuesday, September 26
11 a.m.
Baptist Building, Jackson

Tuesday, September 26
6 p.m.
Mike Anderson's Seafood
Hattiesburg

**Limited Seating
for 50 people!**

Call today to make reservations!

**Susan Robinson: 601.292.3347
or 1.800.748.1651, ext. 347**

You are invited

"Prepare the Way" - Isaiah 43:16-19

STATE WOMEN'S RETREAT

OCTOBER 13-14, 2006

Camp Garaywa

*Calling all women to come refresh,
relax, reflect, renew and restore.*

**SPECIAL GUEST
JEAN CULLEN**

Leading CWJC breakout
sessions and more!



**FEATURING
KAY DEKALB SMITH**

Christian singer and comedian, Nashville,
Tennessee. Kay travels extensively sharing
her unique gift of laughter and song. She takes seriously
the Biblical wisdom that a merry heart does good like medicine. Kay will "doctor" our Spirits with God's truth.

COSTS:

- **REGISTRATION FEE:** \$15
- **LODGING:** Patterson Place (per person) \$35 (1 per room); \$30 (2 per room); \$25 (3 per room); \$20 (4 per room)
- **MEALS:** \$8 dinner; \$6 lunch; \$7 breakfast

Registration Deadline: Friday, October 6, 2006

*If you would like a brochure, E-mail kburns@mbcb.org or
call Lisa at 601-292-3317.*

S P E A K U P !

Sunday School Super Saturday Conferences

Saturday, July 29, 2006
Calvary Baptist Church
Tupelo

Saturday, August 5, 2006
First Baptist Church
Clinton

Saturday, September 16, 2006
Petal-Harvey Baptist Church
Petal

Schedule: 9 a.m.-noon at each location

Each year the Sunday School Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board focuses on one aspect of

Flake's Formula for the Future

This year's emphasis is on

Evangelism: Be Ready to Speak Up!

"Proclaim the message; persist in it whether convenient or not." // Timothy 4:2 HCSB

CONFERENCES AVAILABLE FOR ALL AGE GROUPS PLUS GENERAL OFFICERS AND PASTOR AND STAFF · **NO PREREGISTRATION**

For more info: Contact the Sunday School Department at 1-800-748-1651 or 601-292-3291, or E-mail cday@mbcb.org



Pray this day for...

August 25-September 7, 2006

Prayer Ministry Office • P.O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530 • Phone 601-292-3304 • Mississippi PrayerLine 1-800-787-7729 (PRAY)

"Focus on the qualities you see in Jesus rather than dwell on the deficiencies you see in yourself."

July/August 2006 DISCIPLESHIP JOURNAL

Stewart Pickle (CL), Anchorage, Alaska, is a multi-ethnic church start strategist for Chugach Association. Pray for a new church to reach 20,000 Hispanics. Pray for Pastor Elisa Tafao and his wife, Lucy, as they target Samoans through internet radio and a new start church.

Pray for Team Bratislava in Slovakia to have wisdom and be sensitive to the Holy Spirit as they prayerwalk a specific neighborhood each Monday morning. They acknowledge that when they pray in the Father's will, He hears them. They are seeing some fruit already.

For: (1) Church Leader Training, South Mississippi (WMU); (2) Mississippi Baptist Convention meetings; (3) Mississippi Baptist Convention Board Executive Committee meeting; (4) Regional Senior Adult Rally, Salem Heights BC, Laurel, 8:30 - 11:30 a.m. (D&FM).

Journeymen Aura Opris, Bucharest, Romania, has begun prayerwalking around some of the university campuses. Pray for Team Bucharest as they prayerwalk the campuses throughout the city and for a harvest among the 200,000 university students. Please pray as details for this ministry are worked out and for team members to remain focused on the Lord.

For: (1) Regional Senior Adult Rally, FBC, Batesville (D&FM); (2) Pray that a renewed focus and vision will enable the International Prayer Center of Jerusalem to be a place where God's people will change the world through intercession; (3) Please pray today for President Nicanor Duarte Frutos of Paraguay (central South America).

For: (1) Church Leader Training, Camp Garaywa, 25th-26th (WMU); (2) Premier Pak Pong Jo of North Korea; (3) Professionals and students in La Cumaca, Valeneta, Venezuela, where a construction company owner and his wife, an accountant and teacher, were baptized in June. They are inviting people to their home to share the Gospel.

Missionaries in northern Chile request prayer for more men to accept the gospel. Their new ministries are in distant, rural communities where the culture is very traditional and charismatic. Being in a Bible study group or church is fine for women and children, but out of the "comfort zone" for many men. Ask the Father to break down cultural barriers and draw these men to Himself.

For: (1) Baptist Foundation Month (MBF Emphasis); (2) Margaret Lackey State Missions Emphasis.

Lift up the families of the Lake People of Western Europe. Family is the most important facet of their lives. They work to provide for, spend time with, and make decisions as families. Pray for them to come to Jesus as families. Pray that the workers who are there will honor God with their own families, so that they will be a positive testimony of God's love to these people.

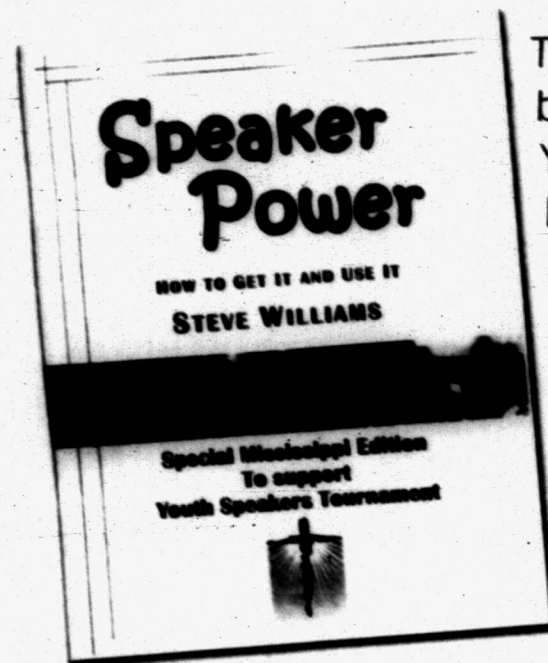
For: (1) Discipleship Training Launch Day (D&FM); (2) "Border-land Benito" and wife, "Berta," are representative Mexicans living on the U.S.-Mexico border. They work long hours, often at different times, producing stress at home. They are very lonely and would rather return home to be with extended family. Spiritually, Benito comes from a traditional religious background, but has not found spiritual help from the church. Pray for them.

For: (1) Labor Day; (2) A believing sister, E, has experienced much spiritual oppression over the past year. She is an Algerian Arab of Algeria. She continues to suffer persecution from family members. Pray that E will know God's presence, love and strength daily, be a witness of His joy at home and work, and be faithful to read and obey His Word.

For: (1) Baptist Building Staff AT HOME DAYS, 6th-8th; (2) The hundreds of thousands of Israelis (Jew and Arab) who have been living in their bomb shelters and for those who are displaced. Ask that they will come to know the Prince of Peace and His love that drives out all fear. Pray for the many opportunities believers have to demonstrate the love of the Messiah, in this great time of need.

For: (1) AMD/MBCB Prayer/Leadership Meeting, Camp Garaywa, 7th-8th, (MS); (2) Mary Reagan, Franklin, N.C., is a part chaplain for the Blount Island Port Ministry in Florida. Praise God for the opportunity to minister in Mississippi, North Carolina, Honduras, and at the port in Florida. Pray as she seeks God's will and takes advantage of opportunities to share.

B came to the chronological Bible storying group in Baganda of Uganda. Others asked if her husband was now allowing her to come. She replied that he wasn't, but that she thought it was worth the beatings she would receive for coming. She said she would be attending every week. Please pray for her protection and for the salvation of her and her husband.



The Mississippi Edition of **SPEAKER POWER** by Steve Williams is a resource to support Youth Speakers Tournament. Discipleship and Family Ministry would like to send you a complimentary copy of this new book.

Please mail the form below to:
Discipleship and Family Ministry Department
P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205
or Fax to 601-714-7432
[E-mail orders also accepted at dbrashier@mbcb.org].

Check below:

- ☐ Please send me a copy of the Mississippi Edition of **SpeakerPower**.
☐ Please send my church _____ [number needed] copies of this year's Youth Speakers Tournament brochures.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

Church: _____

Association: _____

Also check below:

- ☐ Send a representative to talk to me about Speakers Tournament.
☐ We want to host a Speakers Tournament Clinic for our church and association.

GA Mother/Daughter October Overnights

Mothers and their GA daughters (grades 1-6) share the excitement of missions learning.



**Begins: 5 p.m.
Friday
Ends: 2 p.m.
Saturday
Cost: \$38**

October 6-7

October 20-21

Registrations accepted starting August 1.

For more info, contact the wMu
1-800-748-1651 or 601-292-3316
E-mail ahatch@mbcb.org

HOUSE TOPS

MySpace website captivating youth

DULUTH, Ga. (BP) — MySpace has been both a great asset and a burden to youth minister Ricky Smith. Through MySpace, he has found new ways to connect with youth and promote events not only to students at Piney Grove Church in Columbus, Ga., as well as those not attending church — but, in viewing online pages belonging to his youth, he has shed tears seeing how some of them behave differently when not at Piney Grove. At times, he admits that it causes him to question his ability as a minister.

So goes the seemingly schizophrenic world of MySpace, the online phenomenon that is approaching 100 million users, mostly students, and that has youth ministers debating its usefulness and its dangers.

"I don't think you can have a conversation about youth culture right now without talking about MySpace," said Chris Trent, middle school pastor at Johnson Ferry Church in Marietta, Ga. Trent initiated a dialogue on the topic at a summit meeting of youth pastors from across the state in May.

The expansion of MySpace is typical of technology and youth, Trent said. "When the Internet first came out, there were questions about whether or not kids should mess with it. The same went with pagers and cell phones. If it's something that big, there will be a debate [on its usage]," he said.

Smith noted, "I've got three choices regarding cultural issues. Retreat from it, immerse in it or engage it. To engage the culture means I'm going to be aware of what's there and utilize it for the Kingdom. At the same time I'll establish boundaries in my own life and disciple others in using those boundaries."

"I struggle with the fact that there are so many registered users on MySpace. It's not going away."

Bryan Bulmer, youth pastor at Fletcher Memorial Church in Statesboro, Ga., grants that MySpace can have positive aspects for ministry but nonetheless voices strong words of caution for youth leaders.

"Anybody who's a minister and wants to get on MySpace needs to have some strong accountability," Bulmer said. "There are images on there that can appear before you very easily."

Something MySpace offers the youth pastor, Bulmer said, is a more candid look into the life of a student. "The biggest things I've seen is how [youth] want to be perceived by others. In my opinion they will [build pages] thinking how they want to be perceived on the Internet. They will say things they wouldn't normally say. ..."

They also may post too much personal information about themselves on MySpace — information they think is only being seen by their friends.

"Students do not realize who might be looking at their account," said Scott Kindig, youth ministry consultant with the Georgia Baptist Convention. "Predators could 'mine' information from a MySpace account that endangers the user. Future bosses look at MySpace histories as they consider whom they might hire, looking for the character of job candidates."

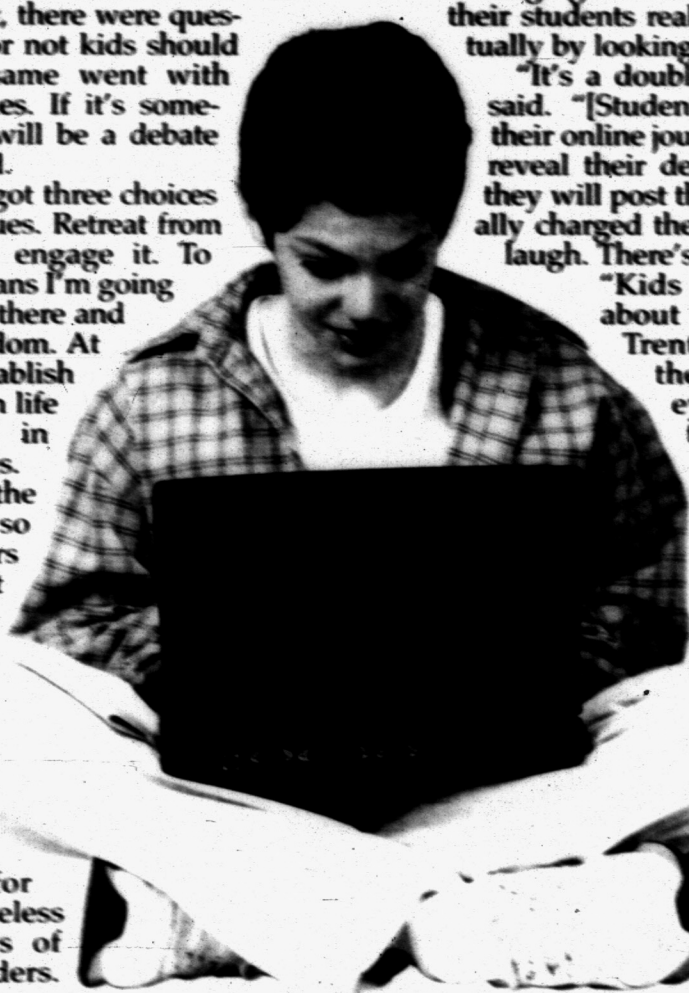
"Youth pastors want an authentic look at who their kids are. Some have learned things — encouraging and discouraging — about where their students really are morally and spiritually by looking at MySpace accounts."

"It's a double-edged sword," Bulmer said. "[Students] will write things in their online journal that are heartfelt and reveal their depth. On the other hand, they will post things which may be sexually charged they think will make others laugh. There's no filter for them."

"Kids are incredibly honest about what they say online,"

Trent said. "I don't think they realize how many eyes are seeing what they're writing. For some, it's a place to vent. As a society they may struggle with communication, and it's a place to be honest about their lives."

"Youth pastors need to help parents understand how to use this site to keep up with the youth culture. Too often we as adults want to label something as bad because we don't want to do the work to understand it."



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



1. Pleasant Hill Church, Calhoun Association



2. First Church, Leaksville

1. Pleasant Hill Church, Calhoun Association, recently held their VBS with 95 enrolled. Shown are the participants.
2. First Church, Leaksville, held their VBS July 10-14 with an average of 69 present. Shown are the participants.
3. Union Church, Sardis, held their VBS July 10-14. The children collected \$121 during the week for missions and gave the money to the Boys and Girls Club of Sardis. Shown are the participants.



3. Union Church, Sardis

REVIVALS AND HOMECOMINGS

Bethlehem Church, Morton: Revival, Aug. 27-30; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m., followed by lunch and afternoon worship, 1:15 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Greg Renfroe, speaker; Ryan Merchant, music.

Courtland Church, Panola Association: Revival, Aug. 27-30; 7 p.m. nightly; Bob Self, speaker; Chuck Waller, music; Charles Locke, pastor.

First Church, Oloh: Revival, Sept. 17-20; Sun., 10 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Jim Futral, speaker; David Blackwell, music; Eddie Parker, pastor.

Friendship East Church, Charleston: Revival, Sept. 10-13; Imanuel Weeks, speaker.

Weir Church, Weir: Homecoming, Sept. 10; worship, 10:30 a.m., followed by covered dish lunch; Leon Bullard, speaker.

Holly Bluff Church, Holly Bluff: Homecoming, Sept. 10; worship, 10:45 a.m., followed by covered dish dinner and singing, 1:30 p.m. Andy May, speaker.

Parkway Church, Hernando: Revival, Sept. 3-5; Sun., 9:30 a.m., 10:45 a.m., and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; A.M. "Sonny" Moore, speaker; David Johns, music; Mike Ramage, pastor.

Siloam Church, Magee: Homecoming, Aug. 27; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m., with noon meal and afternoon music; Billy Stewart Jr., speaker; Beverly Roberts, music; George Lewis, pastor.

Furrs Church, Pontotoc County: Homecoming and Senior Citizens Day, Sept. 10; special music and message, 10 a.m., followed by lunch; Scott Witcher, speaker; Micah Lambert, music; Joe Herndon, pastor.

Immanuel Church, Batesville: 50th Homecoming, Sept. 3; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m., followed by fellowship meal, speakers, singing, and a time of remembrance.

Zion Hill Church, Wesson: Revival, Aug. 27-31; Sun., 10:45 a.m. and 6:45 p.m.; Mon.-Thurs., 7 p.m.; Gene Douglas, speaker; Todd McDaniel, music; Tom McCormick, pastor.

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Noteburning, Central Church, Bentonia

Central Church, Bentonia, recently burned the note signifying the payoff of their new addition, Perkins Hall. Shown are Gowan Ellis and Sara Perkins

Mississippi Baptist Minister to Host

Alaska Cruise

And Pacific Northwest Vacation

On June 19, 2007, join your Spiritual Director, Baptist Minister Rev. Billy Williams on this 15-day vacation including a 7-day deluxe Alaska Cruise with Holland America Line and a 7-day Pacific Northwest vacation with Your Man Tours. Devotions will be made available daily while on board ship for those in the group who wish to participate. Rev. Williams, now retired, has served as a Baptist Minister for 47 years. For 23 years he was pastor of the First Baptist Church of Gautier, MS. He and his wife Rebecca have cruised Alaska's inside passage twice before. Once in 2005 as a Your Man Tours Baptist Chaplain on this same vacation package. They look forward to returning as your hosts visiting the land of the midnight sun during the year's longest daylight hours. Your group will fly into Seattle for a night before a scenic motor coach drive to Vancouver where you'll board the five-star ms Zaandam. Next, travel through a wondrous maze of forested island and glacier carved fjords, past charming coastal villages, migrating whales and calving glaciers to Juneau, Skagway, Ketchikan and spectacular Glacier Bay. After the cruise you'll start a six-night motor coach tour with daily escorted sightseeing visiting British Columbia; the Cascade Mountains; Washington; the Grand Coulee Dam; Lake Coeur d'Alene; Montana; two days at Yellowstone (Old Faithful) National Park, West Yellowstone, Grand Teton National Park; Jackson Hole, Wyoming; and in Utah: the Great Salt Lake, Mormon Tabernacle, and more. You'll fly home after a night in Salt Lake City. Prices for this 15-day vacation start at only \$2348 (per person, double occupancy). Included is round trip airfare, port charges and taxes, lots of escorted motor coach sightseeing throughout the Pacific Northwest, the 7-day deluxe Alaska cruise, 7 nights in quality hotels, transfers, and baggage handling.

\$100 deposits are now due. Friends and family are welcome.

For information, reservations, brochure, and Rev. Williams' letter call:

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**Mississippi
College**

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Mississippi College in Clinton will offer TOT SIGNS, a program that teaches hearing babies, toddlers and young children to communicate through the use of sign language. Lisa Johnson, Certified American Sign Language Instructor, will lead this early communication and language development class. The class will be Sept. 14, from

7-9 p.m. on the college campus. Cost is \$65 per person/\$80 per couple. To register, call the office of Continuing Education at (601) 925-3263. Registration deadline is September 10th.



Belser

Greg Belser, pastor of Morrison Heights Church, Clinton, will be the guest speaker at Blue Mountain College's Convocation dinner for faculty and staff on August 25. BMC begins its 134th annual session the week of August 21.



MS POSITIONS

PART-TIME MINISTER OF YOUTH: FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, COLLINS.

Submit resume to church at P.O. Box 997, Collins, MS 39428. Phone: (601) 765-6279, fax: (601) 765-4365, email: fbccollins@megagate.com.

PARKWAY BAPTIST, HERNANDO, MISS., SEEKING A FULL-TIME

MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND PART-TIME MINISTER OF MUSIC. We need spiritually-mature and motivated team members. Parkway is growing with unlimited potential. If the Lord leads you, contact the Personnel Committee: 50 N. Parkway, Hernando, MS 38632, Fax: (662) 429-6076, email bailey_pbc@yahoo.com.

ORGANIST POSITION AVAILABLE. Two Sunday services. One Wednesday service and choir rehearsal. Contact Grace Memorial Baptist Church, Gulfport at (228) 863-5096.

HICKORY RIDGE BAPTIST CHURCH, FLORENCE, MISS., IS SEEKING A

BIOVOCATIONAL MUSIC MINISTER.

Please send resumes to Attn. search committee, 203 Ridge Park Cove, North, Raymond, MS 39154 or email dertle@jam.rr.com.

JUNIPER GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH, POPLARVILLE, MISS., IS LOOKING FOR

A PART-TIME MINISTER OF YOUTH AND A PART-TIME MINISTER OF MUSIC OR A COMBINED POSITION. Please send resume to Juniper Grove Baptist Church attn: Music/Youth Search Committee, 289 Juniper Grove Rd Poplarville, MS 39470 or call (601) 795-8886.

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT POSITION: MCLAURIN HEIGHTS

BAPTIST CHURCH, PEARL, MISS. Full-time with benefits. Send resumes to 404 Pemberton Drive, Pearl, MS 39208, fax (601) 936-0707. Deadline is August 31.

IMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH IN VICKSBURG, MISS., IS SEEKING INDIVIDUAL OR INDIVIDUALS TO FILL

THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS: MINISTER OF MUSIC AND MINISTER OF YOUTH.

Any one that is interested, please send resume to Immanuel Baptist Church, attention personnel committee, 6949 Hwy 61 South, Vicksburg, MS 39180. Or contact Marshall Thomas at (601) 619-4905 or (601) 218-0392.

HILLCREST BAPTIST CHURCH, BYRAM, MISS., seeking paid nursery workers. Call (601) 372-0132.

JOHNS BAPTIST CHURCH IS SEEKING A MINISTER OF MUSIC for contemporary-style music program. Please send resume to 426 Pineview Lane, Brandon, MS 39042, or Call (601) 824-9404.

NEEDED: PART-TIME ORGANIST IN METRO JACKSON AREA CHURCH. Call Ronnie at (601) 946-9406.

DERMA BAPTIST CHURCH is seeking a full-time youth minister who has a passion for students and a heart for making a difference. Candidates should submit their resumes to westfam@tds.net.

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NORRIS BOOKBINDING COMPANY, INC., old Bibles rebound. Also, church bulletins and hymnals. For more information call (662) 453-7424 or fax us at (662) 455-6743.

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HOPPER GLASS STUDIO, custom church windows, reworking and repair. Columbus/Jackson, (877) 477-1899.

WANTED: PART-TIME ADULT CHOIR MINISTER OF MUSIC. If interested send resume to First Baptist Church, attn: music search committee, P.O. Box 616, Red Bay, AL 35582.

CHURCH FEW UPHOLSTERY, free estimates. Davis Upholstery, Quitman, Miss., phone (601) 776-6617.

HEIDELBERG STAINED GLASS, MERIDIAN. Design, fabrication, repair. Fax illustrations to (601) 483-7958 or call (800) 368-2705.

NEEDED: A DIRECTOR OF MISSIONS FOR THE EAST CENTRAL LOUISIANA BAPTIST ASSOCIATION. Send resume to ECBA search committee, P.O. Box 118, Jonesville, LA 71343, attn: Ralph Webber.

NAVARRE BEACH, FLORIDA-GULFRONT CONDO, Sleeps 6-8, pool, tennis courts, 3 night minimum, \$125.00 night after 9/5. ASK FOR Navarre Towers #1203, (800) 774-4748 or (850) 939-2311.

THE SIMPSON BAPTIST ASSOCIATION IS CURRENTLY ACCEPTING RESUMES FOR DIRECTOR OF MISSIONS through September 15, 2006. All resumes should be mailed to 120 Simpson Baptist Drive, Mendenhall, MS 39114, attn: search committee.

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THE GOLDEN TRIANGLE BAPTIST ASSOCIATION (Clay, Lowndes and Oktibbeha counties) is seeking resumes for an Associational Missions Director. Resumes should be mailed to AMD search committee, c/o GTBA, 560 Willowbrook

Road, Columbus, MS 39705 or email to gba@ebicom.net or faxed to (662) 328-1889. Deadline: 8/31/06.

GATLINBURG GETAWAY: 2 BR/2 bath, full kitchen. Walking distance to parkway, \$65 nite. Call for information at (251) 666-2175 or (251) 689-9982 or pdiiv@worldnet.att.net.

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MINISTER OF MUSIC AND YOUTH: FARLEY COMMUNITY CHURCH, a growing SBC in Huntsville, AL, is seeking a full-time Minister of Music and Youth. Send resumes to: Personnel Committee, Farley Community Church, 12302 Bell Road, Huntsville, AL 35803, personnel@farleycc.org.

THE GIBSON BAPTIST ASSOCIATION IS ACCEPTING RESUMES FOR DOM. Please send resumes to Search Committee: Bob Dennison, 95 Latham Chapel Road Milan, TN 38358.

FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

Maximizing God-Given Opportunities

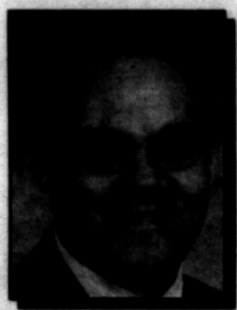
Acts 19:1-5, 8-10, 23-28

By Les Colvin

God gives all of us opportunities to minister and witness for Him. Many times we fail to seize and take advantage of these opportunities because either we are too preoccupied with our lives to notice the needs or we see them and just don't care. Jimmy Allen, former pastor of First Church, San Antonio, and past president of the Southern Baptist Convention shared this incident of a lost opportunity he and his church experienced years ago. "We missed him. Our chance to change things came and passed and we did not know it was there. A dark-skinned little boy sat through Sunday School classes for three

years, but some one missed him. His name was Sirhan Sirhan, and at age 24 he shot and killed Senator Robert Kennedy. In a welter of words and the shudder of grief throughout our nation, the persistent thought keeps recurring ... someone missed him." Paul's ministry in Ephesus in Acts 19 gives us an encouraging example of maximizing God-given opportunities.

In verses 1-5, Paul gives the example of communicating clearly. While in Ephesus, Paul encountered some men who were disciples of John and had been baptized by him. Paul proceeds to share with them and help them understand the work of the Holy Spirit in their lives and leads to



Colvin

them to faith in Jesus Christ. The exact spiritual condition of these men is not clearly known. However, it is evident that they had an insufficient faith that came from an inadequate knowledge of the truth. Upon hearing Paul's explanation, they trusted Christ and were baptized in His name.

Verses 8-10 give us a description of Paul's availability. Notice Paul started in the temple speaking and sharing about the ways of God. When he encountered opposition, he withdrew and met separately with the disciples. This shows Paul's flexibility and diligence in sharing the Gospel. Verse 10 says this went on for two years and all the inhabitants heard the word of the Lord. This demonstrates Paul's consistency and thoroughness in sharing Christ. God wants us to be available wherever we are and whenever opportunity arises.

Paul finally reminds us in verses 23-28 to not let controversy deter us. The spread of the Gospel through Paul's teaching threatened those who made their living making shrines of the goddess Artemis (Diana). Because people were getting saved, they assembled a mob to confront and eliminate Paul and the work of the Lord. The two areas of their lives that were threatened by the Gospel, causing this opposition, were their livelihood and their allegiance to their god. Whenever we are faithful and bold in sharing the Gospel, we can expect opposition. People do not want to let go of their "god," which may be money and material possessions or self and flesh and the ways of the world. Many Christians today do not take advantage of opportunities to minister and share the Gospel because they fear the opposition and controversy it will bring. All through Scripture, God reminds us that persecution, controversy, and suffering are part of the

Christian life. In truth, they are actually evidence of the child of God who is allowing Christ to live in and through him.

As believers, we can take advantage of God-given opportunities to witness. Think about these areas as an encouragement to help maximize and sharpen the effectiveness of your ministry for Christ. Care: show concern for the person, and concern for your life before him. Dare: it takes courage to witness — courage if the person is a stranger to you, and even more if the person is a close friend or relative. Share: If you want to make a lasting impression, share yourself with the person. Get involved in his interests, get your shoulder under his burden, be genuinely glad when he has a success. Prayer: Don't discount the effectiveness of prayer in the preparation of people's hearts for the Good News.

Colvin is Minister of Education/Administration at First Church, McComb.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Singing of Love

Song of Songs 1:1, 15-2:3, 7; 6:1-3; 8:6-7

By Ginger M. Caughman

"How do I love thee? Let me count the ways ..." Elizabeth Barrett's words to her sweetheart Robert Browning still sing of love.

By contrast, in our society, sex sells. Attitudes and actions within the Church are confused with those of the world. Many troublesome issues are viewed as acceptable: Sex outside of marriage; abortion of unborn children; unmarried couples living together; homosexuality as a lifestyle; child abuse, and pornography. What does the Bible say?

After two serious topics, our one-lesson unit is in the study theme "Searching for Answers." Our Bible studies in Job, Ecclesiastes, and now the Song of Songs in the Old Testament classification (plus Psalms and Proverbs) are the

five books of Poetry and Wisdom. Unit Three's delightful title, When the Heart Sings of Love, has the specific lesson, Singing of Love. Remember Gene Kelly's Singing in the Rain?

Whether or not you are married, take a refreshing look at what the Bible says about God's gift of human love.

The Song of Solomon (Canticles in Latin) is "Solomon's Song of Songs" in Hebrew, meaning this is the best of songs. Though there are many interpretations of the book, most scholars agree on a literal reading. "In these poems love is portrayed in its power and splendor, its freshness and devotion to the beloved. Love in all its variety parades before us: moments of union and separation, ecstasy and anguish, longing and fulfillment."



Caughman

in the intimacy of marriage.

(Raymond Van Leeuwen, Holman Bible Dictionary).

In these selected passages in Solomon's love songs, his poems speak of the beauty, praise, and wonder of married love. Song of Songs is a positive and romantic expression of sexuality as expressed

Verbal Love

"Song of Songs is a love song in three parts: a man, a woman, and a chorus of women. In a lyrical expression of romantic love, the language and imagery, which go from royal pomp and majesty to the rustic, pastoral setting of the meadow, is meant to convey all the grandeur and glory as well as the simplicity and natural beauty of love." (Holman Bible Handbook).

Groom and bride express their love and admiration for each other. "The poetic expressions are rooted in the culture of Solomon's day. Words are a

most important means of expressing love, but love also requires actions.

Appropriate Love

The repetition of Song of Songs 2:7 emphasizes its importance (3:5; 8:4). The unmarried are cautioned against intimate expressions of love before they are wed. In marriage the most intimate physical expressions of love and affection are appropriate when agreeable to both partners. Communication is essential.

Exclusive Love

"I am his and he is mine." Marriage partners are to be faithful to God and to each other. "Thou shalt not commit adultery," the seventh commandment of God, sets important boundaries. "Sexuality is a vital part of Christian holiness and not an evil to be rejected. Within the limits of marriage, sex is for procreation of children, the enhancement of the one-flesh relationship, and the pleasure and nourishment of the couple. Outside of the limits established by God, sex becomes

destructive..., calling for God's redemptive power for deliverance" (Guy Greenfield, Holman's Bible Dictionary).

A husband or wife who is 85% faithful is not faithful at all, Vance Havner said, adding: "There is no such thing as part time loyalty to Jesus Christ. It is all or nothing."

Strong Love

Most marriage ceremonies include vows from both bride and groom to love in sickness and in health, in poverty, in wealth, until parted by death.

"Sexual love in marriage is both a gift and a responsibility from God to be consecrated by the Word and prayer." (Greenfield).

"Love involves: commitment, strength as tenacious as death, passion as fierce as fire, and stability to stand against all life's pressures, including the temptation to betray the beloved." Real love is strong, passionate, and durable.

Ginger Caughman is a member of First Church, Magee.

Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.



Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts

are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted.

All news items are subject to editing,

and all photographs are subject to cropping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape-, building-, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. Requests to return photographs must be accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

Bibliocipher

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ERH LI WEMH YRXS XLIQ,
M QYWX TVIEGL XLI
OMRKHSQ SJ KSH XS
SXLIV GMXMIW EPWS, JSV
XLIVISVI EQ M WIRX.

PYOI JSYV: JSVXC-XLVII

Clue: Q = M

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: John One: Twenty-Nine.



1. Children's Musical, Corinth Church, Tallahatchie County



2. GAs, Branch Church, Morton

1. The children of Corinth Church, Tallahatchie County, recently performed a musical, A Song of Praise, for the church. Shown are the participants.

2. The RAs of Branch Church, Morton, held their first campout in August. Shown are Garrett Measels, Gaines Measels, Tyler Mahaffey, Hunter Ragan, Michael Latham, Austin Coward, Tyler Ragan, and Paul Irby. The church's GAs and Acteens participated in church camp at Camp Garaywa this summer; shown are Jessica Tagert, Kay Purcell, Tiffany Strickland, Autumn Cagle, Karleigh Mahaffey, Casey Torrence, Brittany Tagert, and Merilen Howell.

3. Third through sixth graders of West Heights Church, Pontotoc, attended Centri-Kid at Mississippi College July 24-28. Shown are the participants.

4. Bear Creek Church, McCool, ordained Jeff Langford as deacon July 23. Shown are pastor Doug Wise and Langford.

5. Fifteen youth and adults from Calvary Church, Oxford, recently attended Centrifuge at North Greenville University, Tigerville, S.C. Shown are the participants.

6. Fall classes for the Northeast Mississippi Seminary Extension Center, Lee-Itawamba Associations, will begin Aug. 28. Classes offered this term include PM2258 Pastoral Leadership in a Small Church; NT 3166 New Testament Survey, Part 1; BB3100 How to Understand the Bible. To register or for more information, call (662) 566-1700 or 862-7851.

7. Bethel Church, Drew, will host a gospel singing with New Spirit Aug. 26, 7 p.m.

8. Moselle Memorial Church, Moselle, will host the Florida Boys Aug. 27, 6 p.m. A love offering will be taken.

9. Black Jack Church, Vaughan, will host a reception honoring Louis Smith upon his retirement, Aug. 27, 2-4 p.m. For information, call (662) 673-8100.

10. Victory Church, Bassfield, will host Shallow Creek Aug. 27, 6 p.m., followed by a finger food fellowship.

11. Shiloh Church, Big Creek, will host the Calhoun County Associational Youth Rally Aug. 27, 6 p.m. Gary Permenter, speaker; PLEA 33, music. For more information, call (662) 628-5949.

12. The music department of First Church, Ocean Springs, gave a retirement reception honoring Jackie Blount. Blount's 24 years of service as organist, music ministry assistant and children's choir director. She received an inscribed pewter tray, money tree, scrapbooks; and musical selections performed by various groups.



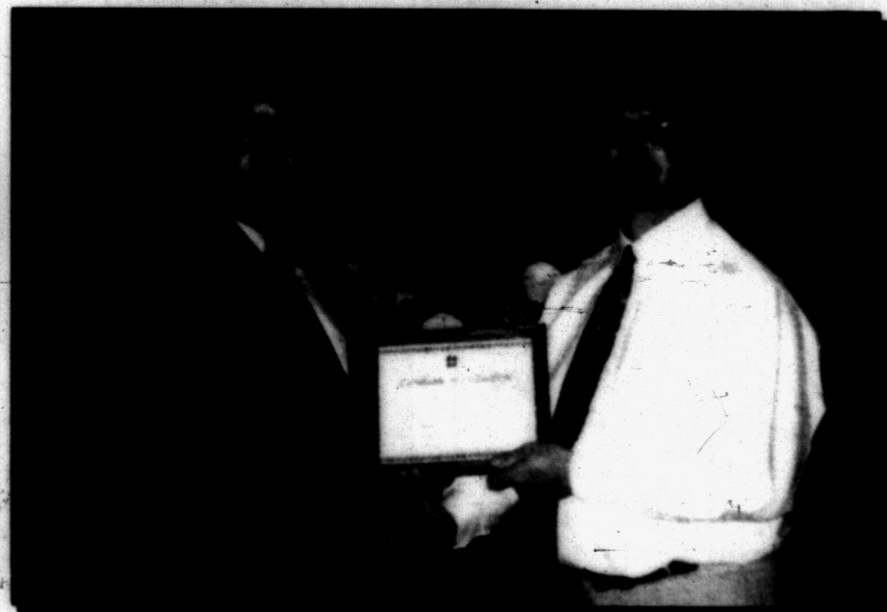
Blount



2. RAs, Branch Church, Morton



3. Centri-Kid Participants, West Heights Church, Pontotoc



4. Deacon Ordination, Bear Creek Church, McCool



5. Centrifuge Participants, Calvary Church, Oxford